Newman is a 'new man' on European soil. He is a fine man, physically, intellectually, and morally. Through honest toil and resourcefulness he has made enough money to "rest a while, to see the world, to have a good time to improve my mind, and if the fancy takes me to marry a wife."[2]* He had served in the Civil War, but had realised as a man of refinement that war was barbarous and inhuman. As a businessman he had experienced bitter failures as well as brilliant triumphs. He is rich, but is conscious that there are more things in life than the mere making of money. He is a lover of art and of music. He says, "I have come to see Europe, to get the best out of it. 1 want to see all the great things."[95] He is frank and innocent, and is not "the great Western Barbarian, stepping forth in his innocence and might, gazing a while at this poor effete Old World, and then swooping down on it."[86] He protests that he is not a barbarian - "I am a highly civilised man/'[27] The proof of his being a civilised man, or of his refinement, is his quest for self-improvement. He is tired of making money and his innate moral sense is shocked by the treacheries and betrayals of business. One of his friends had played a mean trick on him, but Newman had nobly forgiven him and had scorned the idea of revenge. He has made over his business to one of his associates, and is doubtful of his ever going back to it. James makes it clear that it was by the honest sweat of his brow that Newman had made his fortune, and not by deception, or treachery? Valentin envies Newman's poise and self-confidence. "It is a sort of air you-have of being thoroughly at home in the world."[48]

Newman is rich, easy of manner, self-confident, intelligent, perceptive, and has a spontaneous moral sense. 'The complex Parisian World about him' is a simple affair to him because he has not as yet experienced the evil and moral ugliness in its life. 'Swimming in a rapture of respect', he sees all the important places in Europe. He dreams of marrying a magnificent woman. His quest for a magni-

ficent wife is symbolically a quest for refinement. His dream comes true when he meets Claire through the good offices of Mrs. Tristram, Claire is beautiful, elegant, clever, gentle, kind and charitable. She is- "a mixture of pride and humility, of the eagle and the dove."[1]* Newman falls in' love with her, "the luminous sweetness of her eyes', the delicate mobility of her face, the deep liquidity of her voice filled alt his consciousness/'[30] Newman finds his image of a perfect woman in Claire. But marrying her is not a simple affair. She belongs to <>ne of the oldest aristocratic families of France, and the ? mt?ition of